

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A system for facilitating chemical supplier transactions comprising:

a network coupled to a plurality of member businesses;

a clearinghouse computer server associated with the member businesses and coupled to the member businesses through the network, the clearinghouse computer server ~~receiving and forwarding~~ configured to receive and forward electronic messages transmitted between at least two of the plurality of member businesses, the messages corresponding to communications in a chemical supplier transaction that relate to initiation of the chemical supplier transaction, and at least one of order fulfillment for the chemical supplier transaction and payment processing for the chemical supplier transaction;

a web browser associated with at least one trading member, wherein the web browser is configured to allow the trading member generates to generate data and ~~transmits~~ transmit the data through the web browser to the clearinghouse computer server in an original format compatible with a clearinghouse format;

an enterprise resource planning system configured to manage resources of at least another trading member, including product supply chain management; and

a translation server coupled to the enterprise resource planning system and to the clearinghouse computer server, the translation server ~~converting~~ configured to convert data in a format of the enterprise resource planning system into a converted format of the clearinghouse computer server and ~~forwarding forward~~ the converted data to the clearinghouse computer server, wherein the converted data and the original format data correspond to communications between a first trading member and a second trading member that relate to initiation of a chemical supplier transaction, order fulfillment for the chemical supplier transaction, and payment processing for the chemical supplier transaction.

2. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the messages corresponding to communications in the chemical supplier transaction relate to both order fulfillment for the transaction and payment processing for the transaction.

3. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the messages include at least one of a purchase order, a purchaser order acknowledgment, and an invoice.

4. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the clearinghouse computer server includes a supplier managed inventory component ~~that monitors~~ configured to monitor an inventory of the first trading member and in response to the inventory reaching a preset level, ~~generating and transmitting and further configured to generate and transmit~~ a purchase order to the second trading member that was pre-designated as a supplier for the first trading member.

5. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of member businesses is a shipping company and the clearinghouse computer server includes a shipment tracking component ~~that receives~~ configured to receive shipment tracking information from the shipping company and ~~that provides~~ to provide the shipment tracking information to the member businesses.

6. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the clearinghouse computer server includes a business intelligence component ~~that aggregates~~ configured to aggregate data passing through the clearinghouse computer server and ~~that mines~~ configured to mine the aggregated data for information requested by the member businesses.

7. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of member businesses is a shipping company and the clearinghouse computer server includes a logistics procurement component ~~that receives~~ configured to receive shipment requests from trading members and ~~forwards~~ configured to forward shipment proposals from the shipping members to the trading members.

8. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the messages are extensible markup language (XML) messages.

9. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the clearinghouse computer server includes a product catalog component ~~that stores~~ configured to store a product catalog of products available for sale from the member businesses and forward results of search requests of the catalog to the member businesses.

10. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the clearinghouse computer includes a regulatory reporting component ~~that receives~~ configured to receive

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information relating to a required regulatory report from one of the member businesses, ~~generates~~
to generate a regulatory report for the one member, and ~~transmits~~ to transmit the report to an
appropriate regulatory authority.

11.-34. (Cancelled)